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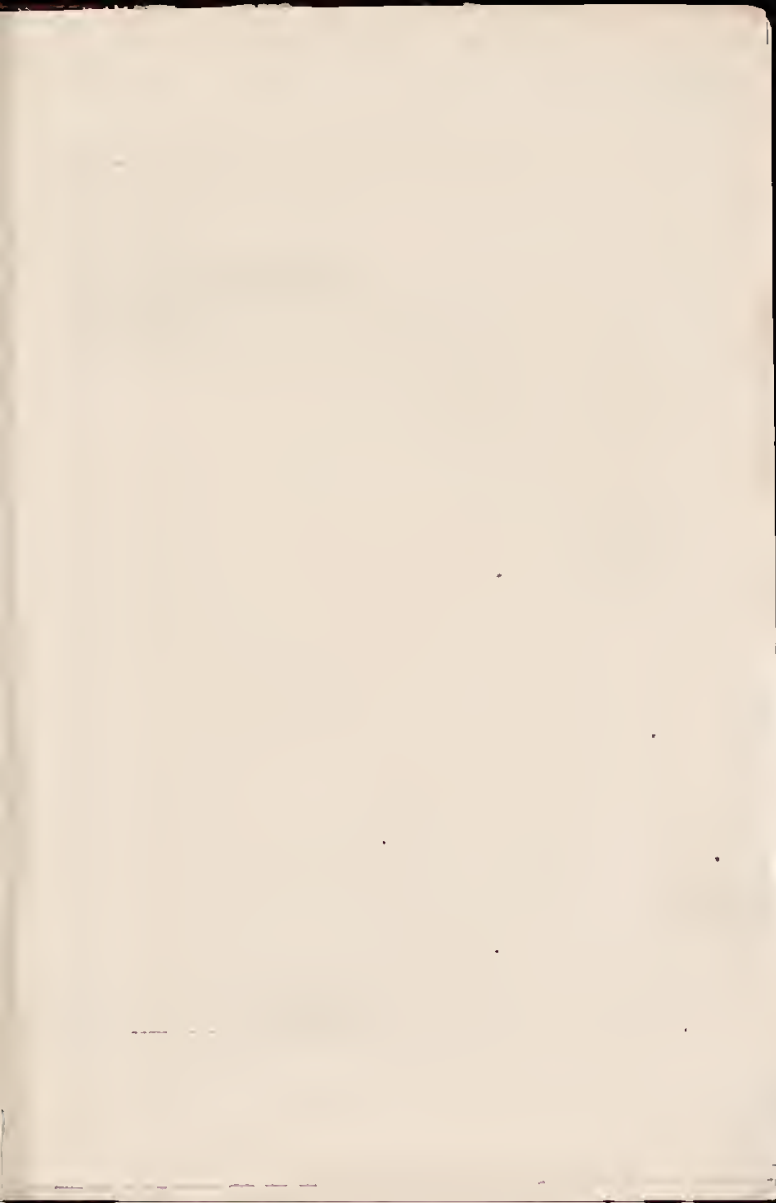
mission press

Japan











NEW PUBLISHING HOUSE, TOKYO: (54 feet front, 84 feet deep, 72 feet front in rear. Brick and cement construction: 4 stories. Factory in rear 27 x 72 feet, 3 stories high, wood, tile roof, sheet iron walls.)

A Mission Press in Japan

PROBABLY one of the hardest problems the missionary has to solve is not the making plain his message to the non-Christian world, but to make clear to his own home church the importance and necessity of such work and the personal responsibility that is laid upon every member of the Christian Church by its one Great Head.

The world could be evangelized in one generation if the Christians of America and England would provide the funds. Men can be found for the foreign field but appeals for money to support those men falls on stony ground.

Pupils can be found in every mission field to fill new school buildings were the money forth coming to erect those buildings.

Publishing houses could supply every man and women in this empire with a Christian literature that would show them the way to better living and final salvation, were the money necessary to produce this literature provided.

At the present rate of Bible distribution in Japan it will take nearly 100 years to supply all the people with the Scriptures.

The Methodist Episcopal Mission in Japan at present holds a unique position in regard to Christian publishing.

In a list of Mission organizations amounting to thirty we are the only mission that has made an attempt to establish such work.)

There has been individual effort in the way of industrial printing plants on a small scale but no attempt at a complete publishing plant doing its own printing. Partly, perhaps because we were established, and also perhaps of our ability to handle all phases of such work without friction, (we have had and have now, more than ever, the patronage of every Mission in Japan except the Roman and Greek Catholics.) We also have the only stock of English Christian books in Japan and sales of such books have increased 500 per cent in the past five years and would be greatly increased if we had the capital necessary to carry in stock a full line of new and popular books as well as the standard works in theology, ethics, etc.

Though we have detailed our very best platform speaker and most earnest pleader, a man fully informed on "Things Japanese," thoroughly alive to our needs in this work. Though he (Rev. D. S. Spencer) has spent nearly two years in the very hardest kind of work, preaching and lecturing from three to five and six times every week. Traveling



REAR VIEW OF OLD SALES ROOM



thousands of miles each year, visiting some of our largest and wealthiest churches, he has so far not been able to raise \$25,000 with which to establish on a sound basis a Christian Press for Japan, a press that will help the work of every Christian Missionary in the land; that will give to this great people the pure literature they need, will put within their reach the good books of America and Europe, that will help to educate Christian men who will then go out and minister to the great populations of Korea and China.

There is not much doubt in the minds of thoughtful men and women that China, with its 400 millions must be evangelized by men of its own race or brother races who understand them, such as the Japanese. Help to evangelize Japan and you help on the evangelization of Korea and China.

Yet we cannot rouse our American churches to the point of giving us \$25,000 for a Christian Press.

Almost every city in America of 10,000 population or over has church buildings costing from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Some to \$300,000. These churches at best have a constituency of 300 to 1000 people and a field of perhaps one ward, or a few blocks of a city.

The constituency of our Methodist Press is now a Christian population of 150,000 and a reading population of many millions, and the opportunity to influence the life of

the adjoining empires containing half the population of the globe.

The Japanese are to-day the most earnest seekers after knowledge of any Eastern people. Let us see to it they have a chance to get the best books. To-day there is less illiteracy, and a larger per cent (94) of children of school age are now attending the public schools (founded on the plan of our American schools) than of the most advanced State in the Union. One sees the ricksha coolies waiting for a fare on the corners, with a book or newspaper. Our servants always take a daily morning paper, and reading rooms and book stalls are always crowded. Second hand books are sold on the streets at night, and in the student quarter there are whole blocks of bookstores selling mostly trashy Japanese novels and magazines. Though here and there are a few stores publishing good books.

Think of the possibilities of a wide awake people, educated, evangelized and sent out to Korea and China.

A strong point in favor of Tokyo as a center for our work of publishing is that this city of two million souls, contains the largest student population of any city in the world. Now over 60,000. Japanese young men come here from all over the empire to attend the higher schools. China now has in Tokyo about 10,000 of her best young



VIEW OF JAPANESE COMPOSING ROOM



men who are attending the higher schools of learning. These young men are imbibing Western ideas and learning Western methods of thought, (as all schools here are modelled on Western plans). These young men also study English and as they learn and understand they begin to ask for the Worlds literature, which is largely in the English language. We want to supply this demand. We think good Mission work can be done in this way and we are convinced that thousands can be reached through the printed page who could not be touched by direct evangelistic methods.

We have had urgent appeals from teachers, (not missionaries) in schools in Peking, asking us to establish a book store in Peking, saying the requests from Chinese students for new books were almost pathetic.

We have in Japan one hymn book for all the churches except the Episcopalian and the Catholics. We print and publish this book. In two years over 80,000 copies have been sold and the end of this year will total 100,000 copies. This is the most remarkable sale of any book ever published in Japan.

We are also publishers of the Japanese version of the International S. S. lessons modelled on those used in the U. S. These periodicals are used by most of the Sunday schools in Japan.

We print for other Missions than our own, several hundreds of thousands of tracts, also magazines, Christian books, etc., etc., and more and more the Christian community is looking to us to prepare or secure and sell all kinds of Christian books, periodicals and helps of whatever kind. We should be perfectly equipped and prepared to supply this demand, and to enable us to do it we earnestly solicit your help in securing the amount of money needed to complete our plans. We have now a new building, (see cut on cover) on the best corner, of the best block, of the best retail street in Tokyo. It has cost us with improvements \$25,000, and is worth double the amount. We bought during the war when prices were low and money scarce. We need \$10,000 to complete the payments on this property and want \$15,000 more for new presses and other equipment.

Can you help us? Will you do so?

Even a small amount will be thankfully received and will help on a great work.

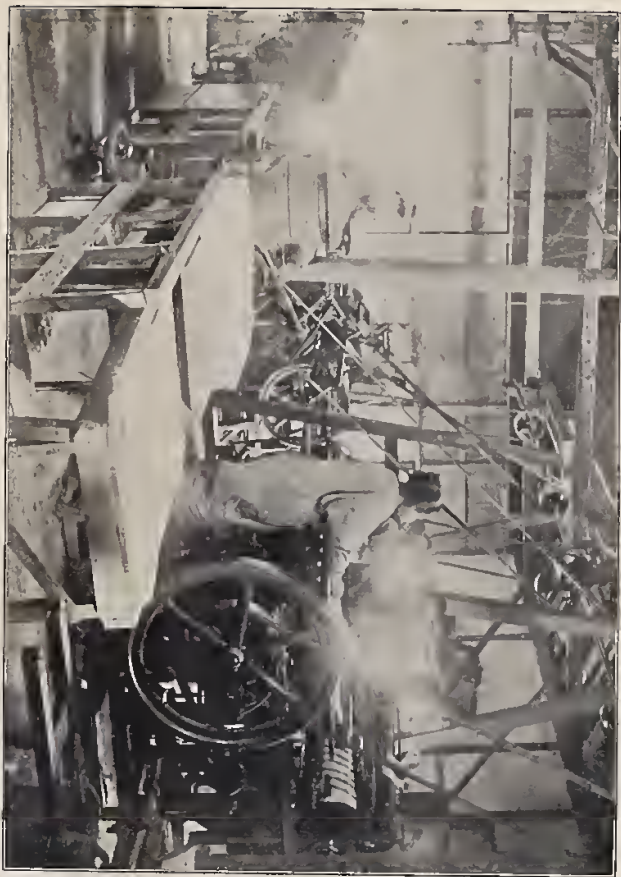
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A VIEW OF PORTION OF OLD PRESS ROOM

